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The Life of Whitelaw Reid. By ROYAL CORTISSOZ. In two volumes. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1921. Pp. x, 424; 472. \$10.00.)

OF the great editors who adorned the period of the Civil War, only Horace Greeley trained up to succeed him another worthy of membership in the same group. Henry Watterson, Horace White, Murat Halstead, and Samuel Bowles finished their work, leaving no real successors; but Greeley followed the writing of Whitelaw Reid during the war, captured him for the *Tribune* in 1868, and when he died left him in so commanding a position that the owners of the paper made Reid editor. "I hope the Lord will give me to see the day when a good newspaper will command itself", wrote Charles Dudley Warner to Reid on the eve of his elevation to Greeley's chair. In Reid's hands the *Tribune* did command itself for nearly forty years. It became for the historian the most consistent and authoritative source for Republicanism among the American journals. Yet it did not lose its high degree of independence, and kept from becoming the organ of any faction. Reid, at the helm, posed as a kingmaker and looked the part. He advised with presidents, nearly conceding their equality with the *Tribune* as American institutions. And he rounded out the incessant labors of the editor with the activities of the country gentleman, the eager citizen, the financier, and the diplomat.

The writer of this admirable biography was long an editorial associate of Reid, and has brought to the task trained skill as a man of letters. The book is interesting beyond most American biographies, since Thayer's *Hay*. It is based on "unrestricted access" to Reid's correspondence, more profitable since it was "a trait of his to preserve his correspondence with the utmost care". It is put together with a skill that makes it a veracious portrait of the *Tribune* and its policies. Its only defect (which is perhaps not a defect in such a work) is the deep underlying conviction that the *Tribune* and Reid were always right.

Most of the facts given in the biography are, of course, already known to specialists, but even these have reason to be grateful for the careful assembling of evidence. Occasionally new facts of importance are brought to light. There are many fresh letters bearing upon the Blaine-Conkling rivalry, and some of them will help to clear up doubtful points in the history of Garfield's ill-fated administration. The devotion of Reid to Blaine did not prevent the giving of sound and undesired advice (I. 378). The tragedy of Blaine's own career is pointed by Blaine's keen analysis of the collapse of the reputation of Henry Clay (I. 377). Reid thought that, in 1884, Blaine "won, morally, an extraordinary success" (II. 99).

The diplomatic career of Reid furnishes interesting chapters in the second volume, where various passages that reveal him reluctantly accepting office invite comparison with Thayer's dicta upon his chronic

place-hunting. At Paris, at the peace conference with Spain, and at London, Reid showed the same assurance that guided his pen in the editorial office. His career does much to reconcile one to the American habit of picking ambassadors outside the diplomatic corps. Few Americans of Reid's day had a more successful life, or deserved it more.

FREDERIC L. PAXSON.

How America Went to War. By BENEDICT CROWELL, Assistant Secretary of War and Director of Munitions, 1917-1920, and ROBERT FORREST WILSON, formerly Captain, U. S. A. In six volumes. I. *The Giant Hand: our Mobilization and Control of Industry and Natural Resources, 1917-1918*; II., III. *The Road to France: The Transportation of Troops and Military Supplies, 1917-1918*. (New Haven: Yale University Press; London: Oxford University Press. 1921. Pp. xxx, 191; xi, 307; 311-675. Set of six vols. \$42.00.)

THESE volumes are the first three of a series of six being published under the general title *How America went to War*, and which a subtitle declares to be "an account from official sources of the Nation's war activities, 1917-1920". The real aim of the series seems to be less ambitious, though the matter is left uncertain, since the preface declares that all the volumes except the first, which deals with the War Industries Board, are concerned with activities most of which fell within the administrative province of the Assistant Secretary of War and Director of Munitions, who is, incidentally, a co-author. Another prefatory sentence announces, furthermore, that the story presented comes not only from the official documents and files, but also from the memories of the men who did the work. These circumstances are worth noting, because they furnish a clue both to the incompleteness of the volume as a comprehensive account of the enterprises described, and to the subjective and superficial nature of many of the comments on events and personalities.

In fairness it should be stated that the intention apparently has been to produce a narrative account of our participation which would appeal to the general reader. From this standpoint the three volumes are reasonably successful. In few places is the reading hard, and some chapters, such as those on conveying, camouflage, and submarine adventures, are distinctly interesting. The volumes are, furthermore, well printed, and the illustrations are excellent.

The first volume, dealing with the War Industries Board, gives a general idea of the board's functions, organization, and personnel. The foreword embodies a sharp attack on the President, Secretary of War, and the War Department for failure to take suitable steps in anticipation of our entrance into the war, and for lack of proper organi-